



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 23, 2007

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ORLANDO MAN SENTENCED FOR FEMA FRAUD

Orlando, Florida - U.S. District Judge Anne C. Conway today sentenced CARLOS LONGLEY, 22, of Orlando to time served for the four months that he has been in federal custody for charges arising from his involvement in fraud against the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The sentence also calls for LONGLEY to pay \$4,000 in restitution to FEMA, serve three years on supervised release, and pay \$200 in special assessments.

LONGLEY was arrested on October 12, 2006. On May 22, 2007, LONGLEY pled guilty to two counts of theft of government property. According to court documents, two claims were submitted in LONGLEY's name to FEMA for disaster assistance for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. In those applications, it was falsely represented that LONGLEY had been a resident of Louisiana at the time of Hurricane Katrina and a resident of Texas at the time of Hurricane Rita and that LONGLEY was eligible for disaster assistance from FEMA.

In reliance on those misrepresentations, FEMA sent two United States Treasury checks made payable to LONGLEY for "disaster assistance" that LONGLEY then cashed. Each check was in the amount of \$2,000. LONGLEY cashed those two checks despite the

fact that he lived in Florida at the time of the hurricanes and that he was not eligible for any “disaster assistance” for Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.

LONGLEY is one of thirty individuals who have been charged to date in Operation “Storm Chaser” that is aimed at detecting and prosecuting instances of fraud in Central Florida related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Twenty-six of those individuals were charged in May 2006. The other four were charged in October and November of 2006. To date, twenty-nine of the thirty defendants have been sentenced. Sixteen, including LONGLEY, have been sentenced to prison terms. The other thirteen individuals have been sentenced to probation. Each defendant who has been sentenced has been ordered to re-pay FEMA for the amounts that they stole.

These case were investigated by the United States Secret Service, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, with assistance from the U.S. Marshal’s Service. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Roger B. Handberg.

These cases are part of the effort by the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force to prosecute disaster-related crimes from last year’s hurricanes. The Task Force was created in September 2005 by Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales to deter, investigate, and prosecute federal crimes arising from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division, includes members of the Secret Service, the Postal Inspector’s Office, and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, among others.